

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1-5. This sheet, which includes Figures 1-5, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1-5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 are pending in the present application, Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 having been amended, and Claims 2 and 6 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for the present amendment can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; the drawings were objected to; Claims 1-10 were objected to; Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claim 1 was indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 2-10 were indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. However, as Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is allowable, Claims 3-5 and 8-10 are maintained in dependent form at this time.

As Claims 2 and 6 are canceled by the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding objection and rejection of Claims 2 and 6 are moot.

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification is amended to delete all usage of "<>," as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection to the specification be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Figures 1-5 are amended to include the label "Background Art." Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10, it is respectfully submitted that the informalities noted in the outstanding Office Action are corrected. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection to the claims be withdrawn.

In response to the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The rejection of Claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is moot in view of their cancellation. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is overcome. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

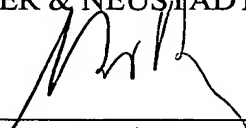
Claim 7 is amended to be written in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 7 is allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Joseph Wrkich  
Registration No. 53,796

I:\ATTY\CBH\26s\262800US\RESP DUE 2.20.07.DOC